

COALVILLE *Leve*
- URBAN DISTRICT. -

REPORT
—OF THE—
Medical Officer of Health
R. WYATT JAMIE,
M.A., M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Camb.
FOR THE YEAR

❧ **1919.** ❧

COALVILLE :

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Report of the Medical Officer of Health For the Year 1919.

TO THE COALVILLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you a Report respecting the health and sanitary condition of the District for the year 1919.

May I explain that a considerable amount of information in this report is superfluous as far as the Urban Council is concerned, seeing that from local knowledge, and from my monthly reports, they are conversant with the general sanitary condition of the district, and with the main facts concerning the individual outbreaks of infectious disease; but in compliance with instructions from the Ministry of Health, Annual Reports are also for the information of that Ministry and of the County Council. Many facts therefore which are known locally are embodied in this report.

The Coalville Urban District was constituted in the year 1892, and consists of three wards—the Coalville or Central ward, the Hugglescote or South ward, and the Whitwick or North ward. These wards are fairly distinct and were originally separate villages.

The area is large, comprising 6,040 acres, inclusive of area covered by water.

The sub-soil is mostly clay, with patches where gravel or sand predominate.

The surface is undulating and varied. In the North ward is included a portion of Charnwood Forest, where the surface is much broken by the outcrop of granitic rock, and in some parts is quite picturesque.

The population is densest in the three centres of the original villages, and a considerable portion of the Authority's district is still rural.

The chief industries are coal-mining, railway wagon making, quarrying stone for macadam, brick-making, elastic web and hosiery manufacture. Agriculture also employs a considerable number of people

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of the Urban District in 1911 was 18,550. According to figures from Somerset House, the estimated population to the middle of 1919 is 21,118 for death rate, and 21,999 for birth rate.

BIRTH RATE.

During the year 1919, 445 births were registered, consisting of 252 males and 193 females. Of these 15 were illegitimate. This gives a birth rate of 20 per 1000. The average birth rate for the last ten years was 28 per 1000. This shows a marked decline in the local birth rate.

For the year 1919, the general birth rate for England and Wales was 18·8. The district is therefore still a point above the general rate. The birth rate for Leicestershire for 1918 was 16·9.

Considering the age constitution of this new industrial district the birth rate can scarcely be regarded as satisfactory.

MORTALITY RATES.

During 1919, 252 deaths occurred, consisting of 141 males and 111 females. This gives a death rate of 11·9—a fairly favourable one.

For comparison, the rate for England and Wales for the same period was 13·8, and for Leicestershire for 1918 was 16·17. The local rate is therefore nearly 2 per 1000 more favourable than for the country generally, and 4 per 1000 more favourable than for Leicestershire generally.

The following Table (I) gives the Ward population estimated to the middle of 1919, the number of deaths and death rate in each Ward and for the whole district

TABLE I.

<i>Ward.</i>	<i>Population.</i>	<i>No. of Deaths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1000</i>
Coalville	10,061	123	12·2
Hugglescote	6,421	67	10·4
Whitwick	4,636	62	13·3
Whole District ...	21,118	252	11·9

Thus the Hugglescote ward has the most favourable death rate.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The following Table (II) gives the Infantile Mortality for the year 1919.

TABLE II.

<i>Ward.</i>	<i>Population.</i>	<i>No. of Births.</i>	<i>Deaths under 1 year.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 births.</i>
Coalville ...	10,061	211	16	76
Hugglescote	6,421	137	12	87
Whitwick ...	4,636	97	11	113
Whole District	21,118	445	39	87

For comparison : The Infantile Mortality rate for England and Wales for 1919 was 89. For Leicestershire for 1918 it was 79.

The rate for the Urban District for 1918 was 110. Thus there is a marked improvement in the local Infantile Mortality rate compared to previous year, and also 2 per 1000 births more favourable than for the country generally, although still 8 points in excess of rate for Leicestershire generally for the year 1918.

This improvement is one of the most gratifying features in the report, and it may well be believed that the work of the Child Welfare Centre has had a favourable influence upon the Infantile Mortality rate. However it is still too high, for it means that one child in every 11 born died before it was one year old.

The details of this mortality are as follows :

Gastro-intestinal ailments	...	3
Premature birth	...	3
Congenital defects	...	5
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	9
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	1
Convulsions	...	4
Pneumonia	...	3
Other Causes	...	11

There is a satisfactory decline in the number of deaths attributed to Premature Birth : 3 for 1919 as compared with 9 for 1918. Ante-natal care of the mothers is of importance in this connection, and here again it is reasonable to credit the Welfare Centre with some of this improvement.

Under the heading Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus, there is also an improvement, a reduction of 16 to 9 having occurred in 1919.

The item of congenital defects, to which five deaths are attributed, may also be influenced by ante-natal care.

Further improvement in the Infantile mortality rate can still be looked for in the direction of more intelligent feeding and clothing of children.

The following Table (III) gives the deaths classified according to diseases in each Ward.

TABLE III.

DISEASE.	Coal-ville.	Huggles-cote.	Whit-wick.	Whole District.
Scarlatina	0	0	2	2
Diphtheria	5	7	1	13
Influenza.	10	5	5	20
Gastro-intestinal	2	1	0	3
Puerpural Fever	0	0	1	1
Marasmus, &c.	7	1	1	9
Phthisis.. .. .	8	3	2	13
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	2	0	3
Other Tuberculous diseases ..	3	0	0	3
Bronchitis	4	3	5	12
Pneumonia	9	3	5	17
Heart Disease	16	7	8	31
Violence	4	2	3	9
Suicide	1	0	0	1
Cancer	4	6	3	13
Other Respiratory Diseases ..	1	1	3	5
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	6	2	0	8
Other Defined	35	17	19	71
Ill-defined Diseases	7	7	0	14
Convulsions	0	0	4	4
Totals	123	67	62	252

From the fore-going Table it will seen,

- (1) That apart from Influenza, 15 deaths were due to zymotic disease, as compared with 17 for the previous year. These will be dealt with in a subsequent table.
- (2) That 31 deaths were attributed to Heart disease as compared with 13 for the previous year. The cause of this apparent increase is not clear.
- (3) That 19 deaths were attributed to Tuberculosis—the same number as for 1918. Of these 13 were due to Phthisis, 3 to Tuberculous Meningitis and 3 to Tuberculosis of other parts. Thus Tuberculosis continues to levy its steady toll on the lives of the people, and thus far there is no sign of appreciable diminution in the number of victims. Thus one death in every 13 is due to Tuberculosis.

- (4) That 34 deaths were due to diseases of the Respiratory organs. This compares with 60 for the previous year—a diminution probably due to the absence of Influenza in epidemic form, throughout the greater part of the year. Of these 34 deaths 12 were due to Bronchitis, 17 to Pneumonia and 5 to other respiratory diseases. Three of the Pneumonia cases were amongst children under one year.
- (5) That Cancer maintains its deadly average, 13 deaths being due to this cause, as compared with 15 for the previous year. The age periods chiefly affected continue to be 45—65 and 65 upwards.
- (6) That Gastro-intestinal ailments caused 3 deaths, as compared with 5 for 1918. There has been a steady and sustained improvement under this heading for the last ten years.
- (7) That 20 deaths were attributed to Influenza, as compared with 58 for 1918. These deaths occurred in the first two months of 1919 and formed part of the epidemic prevalent at the end of 1918 and beginning of 1919.
- (8) That 9 deaths resulted from injuries accidentally sustained, as compared with 8 for the previous year. Five of these were the result of accident in the coal mines.

The following Table (IV.) gives the deaths and death rates from Zymotic Disease for the year 1919.

TABLE IV.

DISEASE.				Coal- ville.	Huggles- cote.	Whit- wick.	Whole District.
Population				10,061	6,421	4,636	21,118
Measles ..	..	..	..	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	5	7	1	13
Scarlatina ..	..	..	..	0	0	2	2
Whooping-Cough ..	..	..	..	0	0	0	0
Diarrhoea ...	..	..	..	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever ..	..	..	..	0	0	0	0
Totals ..	..	..	..	5	7	3	15
Rate per 1,000 .				·48	1·0	·75	·7

Thus 15 deaths were attributed to zymotic disease as compared with 17 for 1918. It is satisfactory to note that no death occurred from Whooping Cough, Measles, or Enteric Fever.

A brief account follows respecting the Infectious diseases during the year 1919.

Notifications.—The notifications received during the year were as follows :—

Diphtheria	...	...	60
Scarlatina	...	...	102
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	6
Tuberculosis	17	{ 13 Phthisis	
		{ 4 Tubercle of other parts.	
Erysipelas	...	...	3
Broncho-pneumonia and Influenza			8
Measles	...	...	6
Malaria	...	...	2

Measles.—Since 1917 and 1918 there has been no epidemic of Measles. In October, 1919, a few cases appeared in the North Ward and Central Ward. As previously noted this disease has not added to the mortality for the year.

Scarlatina.—During 1919, 102 cases of Scarlatina were notified, as compared with 49 for the previous year. Two deaths were attributed to this cause. It will be seen that the case mortality is very low—2 per cent.—and this mildness of the disease proved a factor in its spread. Many of the cases were notified in the “peeling” stage, and apparently apart from that the illness was unrecognised in several cases. In one case Police Court proceedings were taken against a parent for exposing a child in a public place in an infectious condition, and a conviction secured.

A curious characteristic of the outbreak was the large number of adult cases affected, some 12 cases being amongst persons over 30 years of age. In one case, aged 61, the disease was not notified until the “peeling” stage was reached. In fact, it was the marked desquamation that led the patient to consult a medical man.

The total absence of hospital accommodation and the over-crowded condition of many of the houses contributed to the large number of cases. In most of the houses, there are no facilities for isolation. In three instances there were no fewer than 3 or 4 sufferers in one house. The months of September and October were the months of the greatest incidence of the disease. With greater facilities for isolation from better housing conditions, and with the provision of hospital accommodation, as arranged under the County Council scheme, such prevalence as the district has experienced last year, should be a thing of the past. Although it has fortunately added but little to the death rate, it has been a wide spread inconvenience, and might have been a serious menace to the health of the community.

Whooping Cough.—This disease was prevalent in the Central ward in the early months of the year, but no fatality occurred. In September and October there were numerous cases in the North ward, but in December the Urban District was free from this disease.

Enteric Fever.—It is satisfactory to again report that the district has been free from Enteric fever throughout the year.

Diphtheria.—This disease has clung to the district with remarkable tenacity. Sixty cases were notified as compared with 45 for 1918.

The Central and South wards provided most of the cases although the North ward was by no means free from the disease. It varied in violence from time to time, and 13 deaths resulted from this cause, as compared with 10 for the previous year. The Council provide a free bacteriological examination and also supply anti-diphtheritic serum. Forty-seven of the cases were clearly "contact" cases. The milk supply did not appear to play any part in its spread. The over-crowded condition of the houses, and the want of hospital accommodation gave the disease every chance of spreading. A decline in the number of cases occurred during the last two months of the year.

Two cases occurred amongst persons over 17, but the bulk of the cases were amongst children from 3 to 12 years of age.

Influenza.—This disease continued epidemic from the closing months of 1918 till March, 1919. The characteristic symptoms of the 1918 outbreak persisted, such as nose bleeding and rusty sputum and a marked tendency to Pneumonia, and no fewer than 20 deaths occurred from this cause. Fourteen of the fatal cases were amongst persons from 15 to 45 years of age. The over-crowded condition of many of the houses, and the fact that frequently several members of the house were simultaneously attacked, made adequate nursing impracticable. The local V.A.D. were very helpful in several of those cases of inadequate nursing.

Tuberculosis.—Seventeen cases of Tuberculosis were notified, as compared with 10 for 1918. On notification most of the cases before long came under Sanatorium treatment; but as previously noted both the prevalence and mortality of this disease remain unaffected.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—During 1919, six cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were reported. Under treatment they all rapidly recovered.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF DISTRICT.

Water Supply —The public supply is pumped from a deep well in the sandstone measures. It continues fairly sufficient and of a high standard of organic purity. Samples of it have been regularly analysed.

During the year, 39 additional houses have been connected, making a total of 3,683 houses now supplied from the public mains. In the Whitwick district a few springs are still used for domestic supply. These have been regularly analysed and found well within the limits of usable waters.

Rivers and Streams.—This district being at the top of the water-shed, there are no rivers of any size. Two brooks, one flowing north and one flowing south from the uplands, ultimately receive the effluents from the two sewage farms, but by the time these effluents reach the brooks they are in an innocuous state.

Drainage and Sewerage —Except in the rural part the district is drained and sewered throughout. There are two Sewage farms —Kelham Bridge on the south side of the district, and Snarrows on the

north side. Both sewage farms have worked well and the effluents have been examined and found satisfactory.

Closet Accommodation.—During 1919 several conversions of ash-pit privies into water closets have been made, and minor improvements in house drainage have been effected. The sanitary conveniences at the end of the year are as follows :

Water closets	1581
Privies with fixed receptacle	1689
Privies with moveable receptacle	55

The difficulties in connection with materials and labour, although not so acute as in previous years, have retarded the conversion of ash-pit privies into water closets.

Scavenging.—The more general use of dust-bins, and the conversion of ash-pit privies into water closets, are gradually making efficient scavenging more easy. From the statement of the Sanitary Inspector, appended to this report, details of the work in this department will be seen. A portion of the refuse is disposed of on agricultural land, and the rest is deposited in suitable “tips.”

PREMISES CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS, &c.

Slaughter Houses.—There are 17 Slaughter Houses in the Urban District. These have been regularly inspected, and on the whole may be described as in fairly satisfactory condition. In my Annual Reports I have frequently pointed out that the provision of a public Abattoir would effect a marked improvement on the present state of things.

Bake-houses.—Within the area, there are sixteen Bake-houses. These have been regularly inspected, and some minor defects remedied. All, except one, are supplied with water from the public mains.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.—These have been frequently inspected, and at several of the farms minor structural improvements have been carried out. The Veterinary Surgeon, appointed by the Council, has inspected and made reports on the examination of milking cows.

Common Lodging Houses.—There are three of these situated in the North ward. These houses are inspected at least once a month, besides chance and night visits from time to time.

Schools.—A systematic inspection and report have been made on the sanitary condition of each school. Once a year they have been thoroughly cleansed and disinfected by the Urban Authority.

Food Inspection—Inspections of food exposed for sale in the weekly market have been made, and also of food exposed in the shops. Pieces of bacon were found unfit for human food and were destroyed.

Hospital Accommodation.—An iron hospital, situate in the South ward, and reserved for typhoid cases, consisting of one ward with six beds, constitutes the sole provision at present. The Urban District

Council, with other neighbouring Authorities have combined in a scheme for the provision of Isolation Hospitals for the County of Leicester. As soon as economic and industrial conditions become normal, it is proposed that a Hospital of suitable size and accessibility should be erected for this portion of Leicestershire.

Sanitary Administration.—In this department the staff consists of three officials—including the Medical Officer of Health—and a Scavenging Superintendent.

Chemical and Bacteriological Work.—The Council have made arrangements by which Chemical and Bacteriological examinations may be made. During the year 1919 eight Bacteriological examinations have been made—3 for Diphtheria bacillus and 5 for Tubercle bacillus. Sixteen samples of well water have been analysed: 12 were found to be usable waters and 4 were condemned as unfit for domestic use.

Housing.—According to the census of 1911 there were 2932 houses in the Urban district with a population of 18,550; giving an average number of persons per house of 4·7. Since 1911—309 houses have been erected, and the estimated population as given by local Food Control office is 21,341; thus giving 5 persons for each inhabited house. To restore it to the 1911 position of 4·7 persons per house would therefore require 285 additional houses. There is thus a present *shortage* of practically 300 houses.

Overcrowding.—There are within the district some 80 houses with more than two occupants per room, and there are approximately 200 houses intended for one family, which are now occupied by two or more families. Arrangements are nearing completion for the erection of about 200 houses on three sites, some 50 in the South ward, some 100 in the Central ward and some 50 in the North ward. There is also a scheme before the Housing Commissioner for an additional 500 houses. Thus when both schemes materialise some 700 houses should be added to the present house accommodation. The Housing Staff consists of the same officials as in the Sanitary Administration department.

As to the Fitness of the houses, 80 per cent. of the houses erected since 1892—when this local Authority was formed—are of the six roomed type, and are substantially erected with due regard to air space, &c.

Many of the older houses, mostly of the 4 roomed type, are seriously defective with regard to air space, ventilation and light, but under present circumstances, these are necessarily regarded for the present as habitable.

Appended are the Report and Summary of work by the Inspector of Nuisances for the year 1919.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant

R. WYATT JAMIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Coalville, 6th April, 1920.

18.530

SUMMARY OF INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR YEAR 1919.

Length of Sewers laid by the Authority	Nil.
Houses erected	2
Water-closets erected (new exclusive of conversions)	16
Complaints received during the year	110
Houses and Premises Inspected and Re-inspected—	
<i>Re</i> Ashpit Accumulation	9,475
<i>Re</i> Water Supply	46
<i>Re</i> General Nuisances	453
	9,974
Notices served to secure Abatement of Nuisances—	
By General Form	70
By Letters	99
By Statutory Form	250
	419
Houses Disinfected—	
After Infectious Diseases	196
After Tuberculosis	13
After Cancer and other diseases	15
After Measles	16
	240
Articles of Clothing Disinfected	6
Schools Disinfected	10
Bedding, &c., Destroyed	5
Accumulations of Nightsoil removed	1,916
Other Accumulations	36
	1,952
Drains repaired, renewed & re-laid,	86
Drains re-laid on old Property	16
Privy, Ashpit, and Cesspool, &c., Nusiances abated	20
Houses to which Town Water has been newly supplied	42
Water-closets substituted for Privies, &c.	42
Roofs, Spouts, &c., repaired	40
Houses cleansed and Limewashed	12
Insanitary Areas (caused by Vans) dealt with	0
Piggery Nuisances, etc. abated	10
Overcrowding cases abated	0
Dangerous Buildings and Structures dealt with	12

Housing and Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

Dwelling houses inspected and Re-inspected	40
Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation	
Representations re making of closing orders	
Closing orders made	
Dwelling-houses dealt with without the making of Closing orders	9
Dwelling-houses which after the making of Closing orders put into a fit state	
General character of defects :—	
Defective roofs, Low unventilated dark rooms, Damp walls and ceilings, Broken floors, Broken and perished plaster to walls and ceilings, Defective drains, Pavements, &c.	
New Dustbins provided	20
Nightsoil Carting Nuisances dealt with	10
Reports to Medical Officer <i>re</i> Infectious Diseases	206
Sanitary Reports to Committees	15
Sanitary Reports to Council	12
Reports under the Housing and Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909...	0
School Notifications <i>re</i> Infectious Diseases...	465
Unclassified Nuisances dealt with	63

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

I have again to report that the three Common Lodging-houses at Whitwick have been satisfactorily maintained.

The number of lodgers accommodated during the year was 7,221, which is about the average of the last few years, when the numbers were 7,070 for 1918, 7,048 for 1917 and 7,440 for 1916.

No infectious disease or other sickness has been reported during the year. The houses are regularly inspected, by periodical visits, and also by surprise visits.

SCAVENGING.

During the year 5,778 loads of refuse were removed, and 13,300 dust bins emptied.

The refuse, where it has any manurial value, is disposed of upon agricultural land.

The dry ash and dustbin refuse generally is carted to suitable tips.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of Infectious Diseases notifications was 209, against 110 for 1918. This number includes Scarlatina 102, Diphtheria 60, and of the rest 22 were due to Tuberculosis.

There were no cases of Typhoid Fever reported during the year. Disinfection is carried out in all infectious cases, and also in cases of cancer and similar diseases, and disinfectants are supplied as required, and the bedding, clothing, &c. is disinfected or destroyed in all cases where the Medical Attendant considers it advisable.

There has been 240 fumigations of houses or parts of houses during the year, and 10 schools have been disinfected, and also 11 lots of bedding and clothing destroyed.

WATER SUPPLY.

42 more houses have been connected up to the Council's supply during the present year, making the total number of houses supplied 3,683. This is a rate of increase not likely to be maintained, insofar as it mainly represents new connections from the very small amount of unserved property now existing within the area covered by the water mains. The increased consumption for domestic and trade purposes continues, the total supply for the year being over 100 per cent. greater than for the year ending 31st December, 1913. The half-yearly analyses of the town water show it to be of its usual excellent quality.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

16 house properties have been re-drained and 42 water closets provided in connection therewith to take place of previous privies. New constructional work has accounted for the provision of 16 further water closets.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The slaughter houses have been regularly inspected, and with the exception of a few cases of neglect to cleanse and limewash, have been kept in a satisfactory manner. The total number in your area is now 18. During the year it was decided that one slaughter house (which had not been used for some years) should be, owing to the unsuitability of the building, removed from the Register, and the owner was advised accordingly. Several of these slaughter houses have not been used during the year, chiefly owing to the meat restrictions in force.

Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops Orders, 1885—1889.

During the year 135 inspections have been made of premises, 53 being at milking times, and 84 have been made of the animals by your Veterinary Inspector.

The premises have, in general, been well maintained, and the reports as to the condition of the animals have been satisfactory. There are 42 Cow-keepers, 14 Milksellers, and 29 Vendors residing outside the district, registered.

FACTORY & WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

The workshops, bakehouses, etc., have been kept under the usual supervision, and the requirements as to cleansing and limewashing have been complied with. Several matters relating to provision of sanitary accommodation and fire escape facilities have been dealt with. With regard to the former there is still room for some further improvement.

The position with regard to Outworkers remains as before. They are not numerous considering the circumstances and the amount of hosiery trade carried on in the District, and all work given out which has been found to have the slightest contact with infectious disease is at once removed and thoroughly disinfected by your officials.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

It has once more been impossible, owing to the generally difficult circumstances, and owing to other duties fully engaging the staff, to resume active operations, designed to improve existing housing conditions, under this Act. No Closing Orders have been made during the year, but in nine cases properties have been repaired and in 4 cases action has been taken to ensure the necessary improvement prior to re-letting.

